

HARLEM FIREBUG BETRAYED BY CAT

Pyre in Own Cellar Ready
for Match When Prowling
Tabby Scares Him.

POLICEMAN STOPS HIS DASH FROM HOUSE

Tale of Burglar Failing, Youth
Finally Admits Setting Fires
to Pose as Hero.

Midnight scenes of terror, which cause horror in normal minds, gave an intense pleasure to the twisted mind of one man. His obsession was found yesterday to be the explanation of a series of mysterious fires that have terrified scores of Harlem tenement house dwellers in the last month. This strange test for placing many people against whom he held no grudge in danger of death amid flames, his own hands started belonged to Edward Putter, an otherwise apparently normal youth, of 946 Columbus Avenue.

Although he was shrank to scenes from which most folks shrink in fear, it was the footfall of a black cat that threw him into the panic which resulted in the exposure of his mania. He had crept early yesterday morning into the basement of his own home, upstairs on the tiered floors two dozen families lay sleeping. On the topmost floor, furthest from safety, his own mother and father slept. He asked the stairs with kerensene, and then treated in the same way a pile of inflammable rubbish in a coal bin. Then he felt for a match. At this moment came the fateful footfall of that prowling black cat on some loose boards. The youth fled in terror, and as he rushed to the street he came face to face with a policeman.

Burglar, He Tells Patrolman. "A burglar—in the house—frightened me!" he had presence of mind enough to gasp in explanation of his sudden dash from the house; but in his anxiety for plausibility he overstepped himself.

As he told this story Lieutenant William Joyce, of the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Fire Department, had happened along and had listened to him. Joyce went with him and found that preparations for an incendiary fire had been arranged as Putter described. Then Joyce asked him to come to the nearest fire engine house, where Fire Marshal Brophy, of the Bureau of Fire Investigation, joined them.

Putter told his tale again with more detail that made gaping inconsistencies in his story and increased the suspicions of his interrogators. Sometimes he spoke of the man he said he saw in the house as a burglar, at others he called him a firebug. He also explained carefully that he was afraid to follow, because he was not armed, but went on to say how he fearlessly went down into the cellar to see if the burglar had a partner, as burglars usually operate in pairs.

"Why weren't you afraid to go down into the basement if you weren't armed?" Marshal Brophy asked. Putter stammered and became confused. He tried to explain, but the more he explained the worse he made the wreck of his story. "Oh, I'll tell you the truth," he said. "I love to start fires. I love to wait until the flames burst out and then every one is frightened. I can't remember how many I have set. I remember the excitement—it gives me pleasure."

"Didn't you think of the danger to your mother and father when you planned this fire in your own home?" he was asked.

"I thought of that, and cut the rope on the scuttle myself," he said. "I have a friend who is a fireman, and he told me that the scuttle is a good way to escape."

Hero at a Fire He Started. "The fire at 952 Columbus Avenue, on January 11, was one of my fires. I put some kerosene on some straw in a bin. Then I went to a saloon and waited. I saw a man come out, and I followed him. He went to a house and I saw him light a match. I heard the firemen come—that is the part I like—and the people shrieking. I ran out and joined the firemen and rescued a baby. "That was a good act. The baby was asleep and would have burned to death if it hadn't been for me. Every one in the district thought I was a hero. I carried the baby down in front of the crowd and handed it to its mother." Putter told this and other stories of his exploits calmly, in a straightforward way, without emotion. He was taken in a tour of the scenes of numerous Harlem incendiary fires, and this served to refresh his memory, and he confessed his guilt. Then he was taken for a preliminary examination to the psychological laboratory at Police Headquarters, and later remanded for the grand jury by Magistrate Barlow on a charge of arson in the first degree. Those who saw him were of the opinion he is mentally defective.

UPDIKE FORGIVES MURDEROUS SONS

Engages Lawyer to Free Them
from Charge of Plotting to Kill.

Chicago, Jan. 22.—Furman D. Updike, whose sons, Irving and Herbert, confessed to plotting to murder him a week ago, announced to-day after visiting them at the county jail that he had forgiven them and had engaged a lawyer to defend them.

"I love you and your mother loves you," he is reported to have said to his sons. "It hurts us both to have you here. We would rather die than see you suffer harm, but you had better remain here until public attention is directed elsewhere. I have no resentment toward either of you."

"We may have to remain here for six months," said Herbert. "Well, the discipline will do you both good," the father replied. "It is a hard thing to say, but it will be a good lesson to you."

The Updike brothers, according to their confession, as given out by the police, plotted not only to kill their father, but also their mother and sister, in order to participate more extensively in their parents' estate. Updike, sr., is reputed a millionaire.

BLACK HAND NOTES LAID TO GARDENER

C. Brokaw's Employee Accused
of Threatening to Kill Family
if \$36,000 Was Not Paid.

Frank Myska, a Bohemian gardener employed by Clifford Brokaw at his Glen Cove home, The Elms, was arrested yesterday, charged with sending letters to his employer threatening the life of Mr. Brokaw, his wife and young son if \$36,000 was not paid.

Myska was arrested by Chief of Police McCall, of Glen Cove, who, assisted by operators of a detective agency, has been keeping a close watch on Myska since the holidays, when the first letter was received by Mr. Brokaw. What was considered convincing evidence to the operators and the Chief of Police was discovered two weeks ago. A letter alleged to have been written by Myska, was found on the floor of a moving picture theatre at Glen Cove. In the letter made his third demand for the money. It was signed, "The Black Hand." In it he said that if Mr. Brokaw thought he could evade payment by running away his wife and young son would be murdered.

Robert Chelsea Bern, one of the operators, visited the theatre with Myska the night before the letter was found. It was taken to the Brokaw home and there compared with the two letters received by Mr. Brokaw. The handwriting, according to Chief McCall, was very similar. More of Myska's handwriting was obtained by Bern, who induced him to answer a "help" advertisement in a newspaper by a wealthy family of Oyster Bay.

When arrested Myska protested that he was innocent. Judge William E. Luyster remanded him to the Glen Cove jail until Monday.

'TIS THE CHURCH THAT RATTLED POLICE VOICES

Protestant Edifice No Place for
Rehearsal, Says Skelly.

Police Commissioner Woods, on discovering a short time ago that there were operatic and ragtime stars among his men, formed a glee club to bring out the talent. Nine of the men gathered Tuesday morning in St. George's Church, on Stuyvesant Square, for a rehearsal.

Several hours later, red-faced and uncomfortable, they were in the office of Inspector John Dwyer. The inspector snorted and granted his verdict: "And, finally, I want to tell you that if we can't give anything better than an imitation of a barnyard chorus or a tomtom back fence serenade, you'll all stop wasting the city's time—you'll do your rehearsing pounding the pavement."

Crestfallen, they filed out, their leader, Mike Skelly, muttering: "How can you expect a Skelly to sing in a Protestant church?"

27 CLOCKS IN BAG TRAP RIVER PIRATES

Alarms to Awaken Boarders
Stolen from Cars on Floats.

After a six months' chase, detectives from Long Island City caught George Dimitri Friday night. He carried a suspicious looking bag. It contained twenty-seven new alarm clocks.

"I run a boarding house," he explained. "These clocks will make my boarders get up on time."

Tracing the clocks to a broken freight car on a float at the foot of Sixth Street, Long Island City, the detectives say they discovered a nest of river pirates. Dimitri, who lives at 207 East Ninety-sixth Street, and William F. Seiber, of 507 East 135th Street, were held in \$1,000 bail for the grand jury.

In their rooms Captain Graham says the detectives found several hundred dollars worth of loot, including Victrolas, accordions and more alarm clocks, which had been stolen from freight cars along the waterfront. Representatives of several railroad companies have been invited to the Long Island City headquarters to inspect the stolen goods.

B. Altman & Co.

Thirty-fourth Street

FIFTH AVENUE-MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK.

TELEPHONE 7000 MURRAY HILL.

Thirty-fifth Street

Everything for the American Riviera

Is displayed in the departments devoted to the outfitting of Women and Misses. Smart Suits for Travel, Promenade and Sports wear; dainty Frocks for every occasion; Hats that express Fashion's latest word; Coats, Wraps, Negligees, Blouses, Neckwear and all the accessories of the fashionable Southern costume.

Traveling Bags, Dressing Cases, Hat Boxes, etc.

Advance Styles in Women's Coats and Wraps

for the rapidly approaching Spring season are shown on the Third Floor. Every late development of fashion finds tasteful expression in the smart Outergarments assembled, among which are Coats for sports and general practical wear, made of checked wool velour, cashmere suede, gabardine and other favored fabrics; and Travel and Motor Coats featuring all the most desired and desirable materials.

1,200 Pairs of Women's High-cut Lace Boots

in black gunmetal or tan calf skin,
will be placed on sale to-morrow

at \$4.75 per pair

this being a decided concession
from the usual selling price.

(Women's Shoe Department,
Second Floor)

Another Remarkable Sale of Choice Dress Satin

to commence to-morrow (Mon-
day) will comprise

40-inch Suede-finish Satin
at \$1.65 per yard

Included are twenty fashionable
shades, as well as white,
ivory and black.

(This Sale offers an exceptional
purchasing opportunity)

The Spring Importations of Marvex Gloves

just received from abroad, may be
accepted as indicative of the
correct glove styles for
the ensuing season.

Marvex Gloves (made by Tre-
fousse et Cie., Chaumont, France)
are essentially gloves of quality,
for the well-dressed man and
woman.

New Tailored Suits for Women's Spring Wear

are now ready. The selections
include a number of chic models
which are exclusively reserved to
B. Altman & Co.

The prices are moderate.

Ready-to-wear Department,
Third Floor.

Fashionable Mourning for Spring

Advance models are now dis-
played in a carefully-chosen se-
lection which includes everything
that is new and smart in mourn-
ing styles and materials.

Hats, Neckwear, Gloves, etc.
Mourning Stationery.

All purchases will be shipped
Prepaid to any point in the
United States, or to Foreign Pos-
sessions. The methods of ship-
ment are optional with B. Altman
& Co. and no discounts are al-
lowed.

An Extraordinary Sale of Philippine Hand-embroidered Lingerie

which has been arranged for to-morrow and Tuesday
and will be held in the Imported Lingerie
Department, on the Second Floor, will
present very unusual values in

Nightrobes	1.95,	2.75,	3.75,	4.25
Chemises	1.75,	2.35,	2.75,	3.25
Envelope Chemises	1.85,	2.85,	4.25	
Drawers	1.95,	2.75		
Petticoats	2.25,	2.95,	3.75	

French Hand-embroidered Lingerie

will, at the same time, be offered at these special prices:

Nightrobes	1.75,	2.75,	3.75
Chemises	1.35,	1.75,	2.35
Envelope Chemises	1.85		
Drawers	1.25,	1.55,	1.95
Corset Covers	1.10,	1.45	
Combinations	2.95,	3.25	
Petticoats	2.25,	2.50,	3.50

An Important One-month Sale of Oriental Rugs

is in progress. Universal price advantages are being offered in

PERSIAN, TURKISH AND CHINESE RUGS

embracing a very great variety of weaves and sizes. The
remarkably low prices at which these Rugs are now quoted
will remain in force throughout the month of January

A Special Offering in the Oriental Rug Department for to-
morrow (Monday) will consist of

Oriental Saddle-bag Pillows specially priced at \$5.75

New additions are constantly being made to the assortments of

Household and Decorative Linens, Blankets, Comfortables, Etc.

on Special Sale during the current month.

THIS WEEK THERE WILL BE OFFERED

IN THE LINEN DEPARTMENT

Linen Damask Table Cloths
each . \$2.75, 3.50, 4.25 to 6.50

Linen Damask Napkins
per dozen, \$2.75, 3.75, 4.25 to 6.75

Turkish Bath Towels, hemmed,
per dozen, \$3.00, 3.60, 4.80 & 5.40

Madeira Luncheon Sets, hand-
scallop and hand-embroidered;
consisting of 13 pieces (24-inch
centerpiece, six 6-inch and six 10-
inch doilies) per set.
\$4.25, 4.75, 7.75

Muslin Sheets and Pillow Cases

Sheets, with plain hems,
each . 45c., 55c., 60c. to \$1.10

IN THE BLANKET DEPARTMENT

White Blankets
per pair . \$4.50, 5.50 to 9.50

Satin-finish Bedspreads, with
scallop edges:

Single size . each \$3.00 & 3.75

Double size . each 3.75 & 4.75

Crochet Bedspreads, each . \$1.25

Comfortables

Cotton-filled . . . each \$1.65

Cotton-filled, with figured mull
top and plain border . each \$2.50

A limited number of Wool-filled
Comfortables, sateen-covered, at
the very special price of . \$3.75

A Special Monday Offering of Novelty Metal Laces

will consist of this season's im-
portations, in solid effects of gold,
silver or steel, and in combina-
tions of metals with colors. These
Laces, which are much in demand
for the adornment of dance and
evening gowns, will be marked at
the greatly reduced prices of

35c., \$1.35, 1.90 to 5.50 per yard

An Important Special Sale of
Cotton Dress Fabrics for
to-morrow will consist of

20,000 Yards of Imported Printed Cotton Voile

presenting a great variety of at-
tractive designs (simple and
elaborate) or white, tinted, and
darker-colored grounds, which
will be offered at the abnormally
low price of

24c. per yard

This Sale is made possible only by
an unforeseen opportunity to
effect an especially advantageous
purchase.

Spring Modes for Misses

are already being displayed in the
Department on the Second Floor.
Among them are Tailor-made
Suits of distinction; Afternoon
and Evening Dresses which sound
the latest note in chic appareling;
and many simple washable Frocks
that are the embodiment of
springtime charm.

Dainty Frocks and Smart Suits for the Girls & Boys

OF THE GRADUATING CLASSES

Frocks of the sheer white fabrics
that are at once so appropriate
and so becoming, with and with-
out accentuations of embroidery
and lace.

Suits of blue serge that will im-
mediately appeal to the boy who
likes to feel that he is well-
dressed.

(Misses', Girls' and Boys' Dep'ts,
Second Floor)

Special Salespeople will, if desired,
be detailed to accompany patrons
to the store's various departments;
or goods will be assembled for
inspection in a private showroom.

BERGDORF
GOODMAN

610 FIFTH AVE
BETWEEN 40 AND 41 STS

Announce Arrival
per S. S. Lafayette

Gowns Suits Coats

the best Paris models, which, with our
own original creations, complete an un-
usual display of advance Spring modes.